

Attorney Docket No. 5670-40

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Prabakaran et al

Serial No.: 10/092,646

Filed: March 6, 2002

For: METHODS FOR MANAGING OBJECTS CREATED IN A DIRECTORY
SERVICE

Group Art Unit: 2194

Confirmation No.: 8485

Examiner: Qing Yuan Wu

Date: April 24, 2008

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INTERVIEW SUMMARY AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants provide the present responsive to the Examiner Interview of April 24, 2008 and pursuant to the rules stated in revised 37 C.F.R. 1.121 that became effective on July 30, 2003.

If any extension of time for the accompanying response or submission is required, Applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee, which may be required, or credit any refund, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Proposed Examiner Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

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Listing of the Claims:

- 1-2. (Canceled).
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the directory service further includes user objects.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the directory service further includes computer objects.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the directory service further includes printer objects.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the directory service further includes a directory service component with a descriptive parameter.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein backing up includes storing object settings, links to directory service objects, and security information regarding directory service objects.
8. (Canceled).
- 9-10. (Canceled).
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein policy data associated with a policy object is stored in a database.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the database where policy data is stored is the registry.
13. (Canceled).

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14. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for selective restoring of policy objects associated with a directory service of a computer system, comprising:

backing up a plurality of the policy objects associated with the directory service of the computer system;

detecting a problem with a selected one of the plurality of policy objects; and

restoring the selected one of the plurality of policy objects without restoring others of the plurality of policy objects, further comprising at least one of the following:

wherein backing up includes storing object settings, links to directory service objects, and security information regarding directory service objects;

wherein restoring includes restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to a domain of the computer system from which it was backed up;

wherein restoring includes restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to a parent domain of a domain of the computer system from which it was backed up;

wherein restoring includes restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to a child domain of a domain of the computer system from which it was backed up; or

wherein a security privilege of the computer system is required to effect a particular setting of the policy objects and wherein the method further comprises delegating the security privilege to selected users for selected objects in the directory service, wherein various levels of security privileges can be delegated and wherein the levels of security privileges that can be delegated include the ability to configure an entire policy object or the ability to configure only one or a plurality of administrative templates contained in a policy object.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein the detected problem comprises corruption of the selected one of the plurality of policy objects.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein detecting a problem with a selected one of the plurality of policy objects comprises detecting problems with a plurality of policy objects and restoring the selected one comprises restoring the plurality of policy objects with detected problems.

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17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein restoring the selected one of the plurality of policy objects includes replicating the selected one of the plurality of policy objects across domain boundaries of the computer system.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 further comprising:
analyzing the effect a particular setting of one of the policy objects will have on a particular target represented as a directory service object before the particular setting is implemented in the directory service.

19. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein ~~[[a]] the~~ security privilege of the computer system is required to effect ~~[[a]] the~~ particular setting of the policy objects and wherein the method further comprises:

delegating the security privilege to selected users for selected objects in the directory service, wherein the various levels of security privileges can be delegated and wherein the levels of security privileges that can be delegated include the ability to configure an entire policy object or the ability to configure only one or a plurality of administrative templates contained in a policy object.

20. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein restoring includes restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to ~~[[a]] the~~ domain of the computer system from which it was backed up.

21. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein restoring includes restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to ~~[[a]] the~~ parent domain of ~~[[a]] the~~ domain of the computer system from which it was backed up.

22. (Currently amended) A computer system configured for selective restoring of policy objects associated with a directory service of a computer system, comprising:

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means for backing up a plurality of the policy objects associated with the directory service of the computer system;

means for detecting a problem with a selected one of the plurality of policy objects;
and

means for restoring the selected one of the plurality of policy objects without restoring others of the plurality of policy objects, further comprising at least one of the following:

wherein the means for backing up includes means for storing object settings, links to directory service objects, and security information regarding directory service objects;

wherein the means for restoring includes means for restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to a domain of the computer system from which it was backed up;

wherein the means for restoring includes means for restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to a parent domain of a domain of the computer system from which it was backed up;

wherein the means for restoring includes means for restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to a child domain of a domain of the computer system from which it was backed up; or

wherein a security privilege of the computer system is required to effect a particular setting of the policy objects and wherein the system further comprises means for delegating the security privilege to selected users for selected objects in the directory service, wherein various levels of security privileges can be delegated and wherein the levels of security privileges that can be delegated include the ability to configure an entire policy object or the ability to configure only one or a plurality of administrative templates contained in a policy object.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein the detected problem comprises deletion of the selected one of the plurality of policy objects.

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24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein [[a]] the security privilege of the computer system is required to restore [[a]] the particular setting of the policy objects and wherein the method further comprises:

delegating the security privilege to selected users for selected objects in the directory service.

25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein restoring includes restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to [[a]] the child domain of [[a]] the domain of the computer system from which it was backed up.

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Remarks

Applicants respond herein to each of the issues raised during the Interview.
Applicants submit that the present application will be in form for allowance for the reasons more fully discussed below after entry of the Examiner's amendment requested herein. The form of this response is as requested by the Examiner during the interview.

Interview Summary:

Applicants' undersigned representative appreciates the courtesy extended by the Examiner in the telephone interview of April 24, 2008 (and in an earlier telephone contact discussing the same subject matter on April 20, 2008). During the interview, the Examiner indicated Claims 7, 10, 20, 21 and 25 this case contained allowable subject matter. Accordingly, to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicants have amended the claims above to place this case in form for allowance. In particular, independent method Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the subject matter of at least one of the claims indicated as containing allowable subject matter is included in the computer implemented method of Claim 14. In light of these amendments to Claim 14, Claims 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 have been amended as needed. As a result of these amendments, while Claim 14 recites at least one of the dependent claim subject matter recitations indicated as patentable is present, the respective dependent Claims 7, 19, 20, 21 and 25 are retained as limited to including a particular one of the added recitations of independent Claim 14, although others of the recitations may also be present and still be covered by these dependent claims.

Independent system Claim 22 and the Section 101 rejection thereof were also discussed in the interview. The Examiner indicated a concern that this claim could be reasonably interpreted to cover software per se without a computer system. Applicants indicated such was not the intended scope of Claim 22, which is directed to a computer system configured to include the particular recited "means for," which themselves may take the form of software installed on the computer. Applicants further submitted that no further amendments are required to so limit the claims, at least as the claim is directed to a "system," not a computer program product, and to the use of "means for" type recitations, which must

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be interpreted to be limited to the corresponding structure in the specification and equivalents thereof.

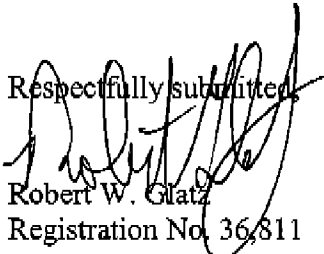
Corresponding structure for the means for backing up is found, for example, in the specification at page 5, lines 1-11. Corresponding structure for the means for restoring is found, for example, in the specification at page 5, lines 12-24. Corresponding structure discussing both is also found in the specification at page 6, line 1 to page 7, line 6. Corresponding structure for the means for detecting a problem is found, for example, at page 3, lines 20-22. In particular, the corresponding structure for all three policy manager means of Claim 22 may be "software applications." Specification, p. 3, lines 1-2. All of these means for structures must be incorporated in a system. However, to make this distinction even clearer, Claim 22 has been amended above to recite a "computer" system to expedite prosecution of this matter.

To expedite prosecution of this matter independent Claim 22 has also been amended above to include "means for" type recitations corresponding to the amendments to method Claim 14 above.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the proposed amended claims place this case in a form indicated as allowable. Accordingly, Applicants request an Examiner's Amendment based on the Listing of the Claims above and allowance of the present application. If further informalities are noted, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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